the newham mag

ISSUE 132
3 November 2007

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Pride in our streets

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Win Eurostar tickets

> Happy Diwali

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5 November 2007- 28 March 2008

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LIVE LIFE Newham

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the newham mag

Look out for the next issue from November 17

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3 November 2007 // issue **132**

Welcome to issue 132 of the Newham Mag. Hopefully in the coming week lots of you will be enjoying fireworks for Guy Fawkes' and Diwali. Please remember to stay safe and be sensible, but most of all to have fun! This is a bumper issue of your magazine, packed full of information. See pages 22 and 23 for your chance to win two tickets to Paris on Eurostar this month.

Jen

On the cover:
A happy Diwali from all at The Newham Mag.

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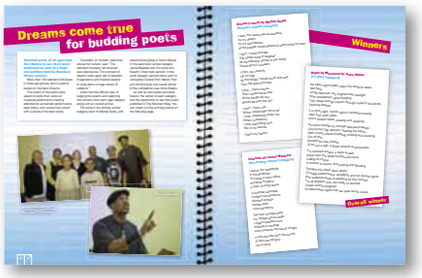

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Newham
Published by the London Borough of Newham

Holiday school a success

More than 400 young people in Newham banished boredom and made the most of the half term break by learning new skills at Holiday School.

Newham Council's Learning Community Services held its Holiday School programme at 15 centres across the borough. Working in partnership with the voluntary sector more than 26 courses were offered to those aged eight to 18 who live or study in Newham.

School renewal programme reaches critical stage

The process to appoint a private sector partner to deliver Newham's Building Schools for the Future project is moving ahead.

Under the Government-funded scheme, Newham hopes to receive more than £200m to transform the education of 11-to-16 year-olds. The Mayor has approved a shortlist to go through to the final stage of the procurement process. Two consortia, Newham Learning Partnership (Laing O'Rourke Portfolio Projects Ltd) and Skanska UK Plc, will now enter further negotiations in order for a preferred bidder to be chosen.

Under the scheme, Little Ilford, Lister, Rokeby and Stratford Schools will be rebuilt while Brampton Manor, Eastlea, Forest Gate, Langdon, Plashet, Royal Docks, St Angela's, St Bonaventure's and Sarah Bonnell Schools will be refurbished.

For further information on how your school will be affected, visit www.newham.gov.uk/Services/BuildingSchoolsForTheFuture or call 020 8430 5100.

Casino pros and cons published

A report by the independent advisory commission set up to examine the case for and against having a large casino in Newham has now been published.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales set up the commission, chaired by retired appeal court judge Sir Henry Brooke, in March.

The commission's report says that a casino would offer major regeneration benefits, but there are also concerns about having one.

Sir Henry said: "We had no difficulty in identifying the benefits for Newham such as the regeneration potential, jobs and training opportunities and a trust fund for community benefits – but there are also people who are opposed to having one."

The commission produced its report with evidence gathered from residents, businesses, local interest groups, councillors and police and health chiefs.

It looked at factors like security; strategies to identify and assist problem gamblers; safeguards to protect young and vulnerable people; local employment and economic development gain; and minimising the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Residents will be given a chance to study the information presented by the commissioners and learn more about the options. A survey will then be carried out on their views.

The report is published at www.theadvisorycommission.com and at www.newham.gov.uk

Newham's the place to be!

Children and young people from Newham protested outside Channel 4's head office after learning that the borough had been rated the third worst place to live in the country.

Pupils from Tollgate Primary in Plaistow and Galleons Primary School in Beckton went to the television station in Horseferry Road, Westminster, to tell them their programme *The Best And Worst Places To Live In The UK* was wrong.

The children sang the Newham Song, which was penned by Tollgate School.

The Ascension Eagles cheerleaders, who are based in Custom House, provided an amazing acrobatic performance in front of the Channel 4 staff and people walking past.

News

Deputy Mayor helps Florence celebrate 100th birthday

Deputy Mayor Councillor Christine Bowden presented flowers when she took part in 100th birthday celebrations for Florence Marriette Furnival.

Florence was born on 27 October 1907 in North Somerset. In her early 20s she became a missionary and in 1931 she sailed to India. Her first station was at Poona near Bombay where, in addition to her ministry, she worked as a midwife and teacher.

At the end of her five-year posting she returned to England where she ministered, lectured and trained new missionaries around Britain. There followed five further tours in India before she finally returned in 1969.

Cllr Bowden said: "Florence is a lady of strong resolve and has devoted much of her life towards caring for others. She is a special person and I am delighted to have been able to play a part in her birthday celebrations."

Deputy Mayor Cllr Christine Bowden with Florence Mariette Furnival

Getting ready for work – Workcoach Paul Fletcher (L) and Sir Robin (R) help Ann-Marie choose an interview outfit

Pioneering pilot to get more people into work

Newham Council has launched a groundbreaking pilot project to help residents get off benefits and into work – even if it means assisting them with their rent.

The employment pilot is the first of its kind and aims to intensively support 100 people who would be financially worse off if their benefits ceased and they found work.

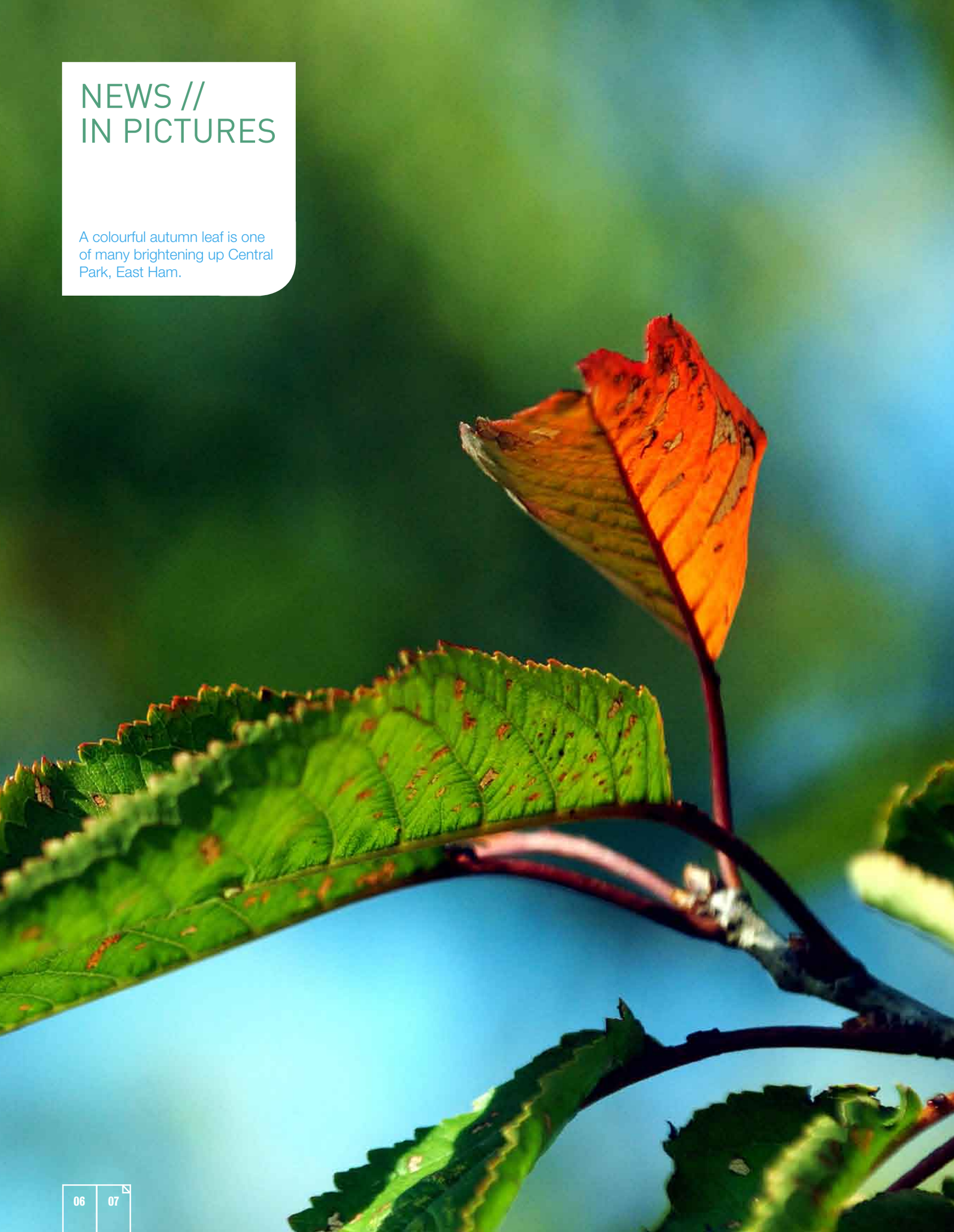
Primarily for people who want to start work but are concerned about how they will manage their finances, the employment pilot will offer the opportunity to escape the benefits trap and overcome the psychological and physical barriers associated with returning to employment.

The pilot is open to people who live in Newham and find a job through Workplace, the council's employment scheme, and other partnership organisations.

Spearheaded by Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales, the scheme will provide a Housing Benefit top-up for up to a year to those who find themselves worse off by returning to work; currently legislation only allows for a Housing Benefit extension of four weeks.

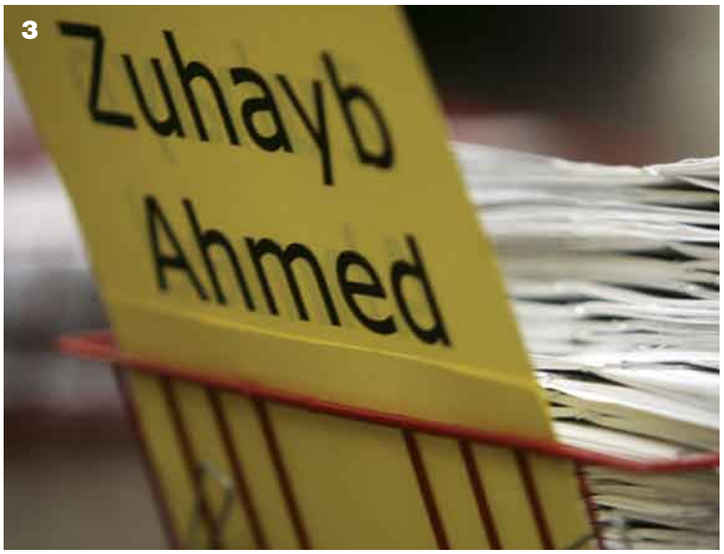
NEWS // IN PICTURES

A colourful autumn leaf is one of many brightening up Central Park, East Ham.



NEWS // IN PICTURES

1 A youngster from Discover in Stratford interviews the Mayor. **2** Operation Street Pride made a difference in Woodgrange Road. **3** Winning Young Mayor candidate Zuhayb Ahmed had plenty of votes. **4** Piglets born at Newham City Farm last week.



Mayor's view
with Sir Robin Wales

Democracy alive and well with Newham's **young people**

After two weeks of dedicated campaigning and a week of voting throughout the borough, 16-year-old Zuhayb Ahmed was elected the first Young Mayor of Newham. The clear winner, Zuhayb got an impressive 785 votes after a nail-biting count in Newham Town Hall. Runner-up and newly-appointed Deputy Young Mayor Hamid Sheikh, 16, also did really well to get 595 votes and the remaining candidates now go on to form the Newham Youth Council.

The turnout for voting was really impressive and more than 40 per cent of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who work, live or go to school in Newham contributed to the outcome of the mayoral race. This is a really impressive figure, especially considering it's the first year we have elected a young mayor. This effort also reflects just how well our talented young candidates conducted their campaigns and how committed our young people are to making their borough a better place to live.

Zuhayb, who lives in East Ham and attends Southwark College, will now spend some time learning how the council works and no doubt thinking about how he plans to lead and be the voice for so many of our younger residents. I have no doubt that the Youth Council will also do a great job assisting Zuhayb in his decision-making.

The young people of Newham are really going to benefit from having a Young Mayor because they will have someone their own age championing their ideas and creating more opportunities for them. I look forward to working with Zuhayb and the Youth Council. It's great to see such passion at such a young age and I think we can all learn a thing a two from their motivation and dedication.

Being one of the few elected Mayors, I am directly accountable to you. It's important that I'm open and accessible for any Newham resident. Following the summer recess, I've increased the times and places where you can meet me to discuss your concerns, issues and suggestions for the borough. To find out more visit my website at www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 8430 2107 to find out where I'll be.

Zuhayb with Sir Robin, interim chief executive Chris Wood and councillors

Young MAYOR OF NEWHAM

Meet our first **Young Mayor**

Zuhayb Ahmed is Newham's first Young Mayor and is setting his sights high.

The former Langdon School pupil won in a landslide victory with the young people of Newham turning out in force to cast their votes.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," says Zuhayb, 16. "People who I don't even know have been coming up to me to speak to me and congratulate me and I have to keep remembering that I won."

Since becoming Young Mayor, Zuhayb has already been whisked to the frontline of youth politics, with a live appearance on The Politics Show on BBC2.

"The presenter, Jon Sopel, gave me some good pointers and was really helpful. It's great to meet people like that although it was typical that the first media piece I had to do would be live!"

Zuhayb is currently studying accounting at Southwark College, something he remains committed to alongside his political and home commitments.

"I work very hard at college so I get most of my homework done there, leaving me my evenings and weekends to concentrate on my youth work, says Zuhayb. "I will try and keep politics with me throughout my life, but I think it's important to stick with college as something to fall back on too."

As Young Mayor, Zuhayb has big plans for the youth of Newham, and as a lifelong resident of East Ham, thinks he can connect with the hard-to-reach youth groups and make sure the channels of communication are open for all to have their say.

"I know in the past I felt like my views would never reach the top. We have such brilliant ideas coming from the young people in this borough and the channels need to be open to hear them.

"It's about getting to the hearts of people so they trust you to know you will take them seriously."

All the candidates who took part in the Young Mayor competition will support Zuhayb as members of his youth council.

You can email your questions and suggestions to Zuhayb at youngmayor@newham.gov.uk

You Must Be The Change You Wish
To See In The World

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE REACHES MILLIONS

A pioneering campaign led by ten year olds from Gallions School reached a worldwide audience of millions, caused a debate in the Houses of Parliament and is now shortlisted for a national award.

As part of an arts project on the topic of slavery, year 6 pupils at Gallions School in Beckton created their own campaign against forms of modern slavery. This included the children choosing to give up their own names for 26 days to understand how slaves might feel after having their identities taken.

Gaining the interest of Mayor Sir Robin Wales, East Ham MP Stephen Timms and the Home Secretary, the pupils were invited to the Home Office in Westminster to take part in a ceremony for the signing of a European Act against modern slavery. They then became the youngest guests ever in the BBC Newsnight studio, where they challenged a director of the chocolate industry on child labour practices. The children also highlighted the problems of modern slavery in a theatre performance at Stratford Circus. They have since received letters and emails of support from the Prime Minister and other MPs and have now been shortlisted for a Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Award 2007.

Following coverage in the Newham Mag and other national and international news reports reaching millions of people worldwide, the children's efforts became a talking point in the Houses of Parliament. MPs in the House of Lords discussed the possibility of a short BBC film being made about the campaign, becoming available for students to see in all UK schools. A secondary school textbook being written on the subject of citizenship, will also feature the unique work of the children, as will a new BBC schools series on Radio 4.

INSPIRED BY HISTORIC ROLE MODELS

A quotation by Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," inspired the children and quickly became the motto of their campaign. Their teacher, Mark Charman, said: "The values of Mahatma Gandhi and other human rights campaigners such as Dr Martin Luther King helped the children to appreciate how unity and creativity will always achieve more than violence and hatred. The children worked together believing that they could create positive change."

As part of Black History Month in October, the children reflected on the impact these historic role models had had on them. One of the pupils, Spencer Forte, says: "Martin Luther King said things passionately like he really meant it, and the way he said things so confidently makes you believe that you can do it as well." Classmate Kalvin Fringpong was equally inspired: "Gandhi helps me in my daily life. I now know that I can be the change I wish to see in the world."

More of the children's thoughts have been published on a website for the University of Leeds which you can read by clicking on 'Ethical Reflections' at www.leedsmet.ac.uk. Their BBC film can be viewed by typing 'children's chocolate protest' into an internet search engine.

FROM TV TO TEXTBOOK

Teacher Mark Charman had an interesting route into teaching at Gallions.

He used to work in TV production, where he helped develop a children's series called Ripley and Scuff. It featured two puppets who joined children in primary schools across the country. It also won a prestigious BAFTA for best pre-school series in 2003.

One episode of Ripley and Scuff was filmed at Gallions School. During production, Mark enjoyed himself so much he asked the school if they'd employ him and train him to become a teacher. He has been there ever since.

The Year 6 pupils who were involved in the slavery project were the same children who, at age five, took part in Ripley and Scuff.

Dreams come true for budding poets

Talented poets of all ages had the chance to see their work published as part of a competition run by Newham's library service.

More than 160 talented people in three age groups sent in poems based on the topic *Dreams*.

The cream of the poets were asked to recite their works at a special evening attended by acclaimed performance poet Adisa, who wowed the crowd with a recital of his best works.

Councillor Jo Corbett, executive adviser for culture, said: "The standard of poetry we received was spectacular. The concept of dreams really gave rein to people's imaginations and inspired them to write about a huge variety of subjects."

Adisa had the difficult task of judging and selecting two winners from each age category along with an overall winner.

First prize in the primary school category went to Mehek Sadiq, with second prize going to David Olaoye. In the secondary school category Jamal Msebele won first prize and Kaazim Omari took second. In the adult category second place went to Jacqueline Durand from Manor Park and the first prize and overall winner of the competition was Anna Waters.

As well as cash prizes and book tokens, the winner of each category now gets to see their poem published in The Newham Mag. You can check out the winning poems on the following page.

Cllr Jo Corbett (far left) and Adisa (far right) with the three winners and three second place runners-up

Performance poet Adisa

Winners

Dream (I wish) by Mehek Sadiq
(Primary school category)

I wish, the world was as beautiful,
As my dream
As if it was heaven,
All the people would behave to each other so even.

I wish, I could wonder,
The whole world in laughter
All the precious stones in the world,
Would flow in a stream.

I wish, we could fly,
Up so high
All the things I would touch and see,
Turn into gold and ruby.

I wish, I had a house,
That I would never lose
All the things we buy,
Would fall from the sky.

I wish, I had a car,
Which would take me so far
I wish, everybody knew me,
When I passed by
I wish everything nice,
But in my real life.

That's my Dream!

Night by Maryland by Anna Wates
(17-plus category)

No silent-night lullaby sings this street to sleep.
Not here,
Under Newham sky, brighter than starlight
With streetlamps' glow flooding
Like cheap orange squash through a gap in the blinds,
Staining carpets

It is sticky light, humid night in terraced housing
Heat from both sides
And a broken boiler, shaking and creaking

As trains thunder by, through Maryland station
Like clumsy tap dancers, beating the tracks
With chunky shoes thudding, clinking and clunking,
Out of time.
Sometimes they whistle
Or let out a sigh, a great whoosh of exhaustion.

It is constant awake, a state of alert
Never inert this street buzzes and hums
Calling its chorus
A mixture of sound, all bumping and grinding

Thought this street does dream
Of stage performance, spotlights and not squash-lights
And audience ready to applaud for this concert
For all listeners now, lost sadly to slumber
Chase visions imagined
Of bible-black nights that are quiet as ice cubes.

Overall winner

Infantile by Jamal Msebele
(Secondary school category)

I punch her repeatedly
in the abdomen
To create a worn pillow
Immerse myself in
a sack of living tissue

Unwanted darkness
muffled conversations
disorted echoes
familiar alien
voice vibrations

The hum of pepe stew
my hunger grows while
I ingest tasteless fluid
Wishing to emerge
swim towards the waves of light

Lucid and free from the womb
At last she will give
me a name

Aim high and let your career take off

When Rob Grafton responded to an advert for London City Airport's first environmental health officer in 1998, he had no idea he would play such a vital role in the airport's future.

"When I started working here it was just me and one other person in my department, now there are eight-to-ten of us and the job has evolved," says Rob, now environment and planning officer. "It's a split role including both the day-to-day running and strategic planning at the airport which involves the future. "It's an extremely busy airport which has undergone incredible growth in recent years and that's set to continue."

London City Airport (LCA) opened in 1987 and serves 2.5million passengers a year. By 2010 the number of passengers using the airport is expected to increase to 3.9million and job opportunities for local people are growing too. City Airport sources 70 per cent of its staff from its surrounding boroughs, with more than a third of its employees coming from Newham.

Rob believes it's possible to work your way to the top with an exciting career at an international airport: "There's great access to jobs for local people here as we are on the DLR and we cater for jobs with all skill levels. There are real opportunities for people on lower skill levels to develop their career. I know people who thought they wouldn't have the skills to work at an airport and they now have office, security and operational jobs here. We have our own extensive ground services and security departments," he adds.

"Don't be put off by needing a degree, you don't. Many of our management

teams have come through the ranks and developed their careers."

LCA runs a unique scheme designed to nurture employee talent: "We came up with the idea of making employees community ambassadors. We offer them an annual bursary and all the training they need in their areas of weakness - which could be presentation skills, writing or business skills - and in return, because they live locally to us, we get their commitment to the local community because they will perhaps become a governor at a local school or attend a meeting at a school on behalf of the airport. We believe in personal development and training. I think it leads to good staff morale. We've got around 12 ambassadors here now."

There is no typical day in Rob's job, but he does play a key role in developing good relationships with local businesses, the planning authority and the community.

"The big issues to the airport and the community are noise and air quality. I respond to noise complaints and enquiries about how we're going to deal with future noise or air quality. We are extremely close to our neighbours so managing community and environmental issues is challenging but interesting.

"We're always looking for new ways of dealing with environmental issues and we've already installed a state-of-the-art air quality control system on the roof and are reporting back to the council and the community. We're very proud of relationships we've developed and every July we hold a fun day for the community. This year we raised £10,000 for Richard House, the children's hospice in Beckton."

City Airport sources 70 per cent of its staff from its surrounding boroughs, with more than a third of its employees coming from Newham

In addition to planning LCA's expansion, Rob also advises Newham's developers. "Some days I'll talk to developers who want to put a tall building up or sit with the Olympic committee to talk about how they're going to develop Stratford and ensuring it doesn't interfere with the airport. There is so much going on in Newham, like Silvertown Quays and the ExCeL London extension, many of the developments would've struggled without our input."

London City Airport was sold to AIG (American Insurance Group) for around £750million last November.

Recruitment for London City Airport is co-ordinated by Reed Employment, who you can contact on 020 7517 3594

For more information on careers at LCA, visit www.londoncityairport.com

London City Airport, Royal Docks, Newham, London E16 2PX
Tel: 020 7646 0000

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR STREETS

OPERATION STREET PRIDE SWEEPS WOODGRANGE ROAD AND CUTS CRIME IN HALF

Crime in and around Woodgrange Road has been halved thanks to efforts by the council, police and partners during Operation Street Pride.

The week-long operation has shown a 50 per cent reduction in crime, with violence down by 60 per cent. There were also no reported burglaries, no criminal damage, no drugs or vehicle crime offences during the week in those areas covered by the operation.

Results linked to anti-social behaviour showed a 143 per cent increase in reports to the council, which were mainly due to internal reporting by staff on the streets. Verbal reports from the public, who approached officers in the vicinity with their concerns, also contributed to the increase.

Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham and a resident of the Woodgrange area, said: "The clean-up has revitalised the area and there has been a noticeable reduction in crime. The increase in internal reports around anti-social behaviour shows the scale of the problem we have in Newham – especially around fly-tipping – and just how many issues we have to deal with when we blitz an area. As a council we can offer services to help tackle the problems, but without the eyes and ears of residents informing us about what is happening on the streets we can only go so far in making a difference."

Inspector Chris Moore said: "The Pride operation has been a great success. Once again Pride events show the value in the effective partnership of council and police working together, that has been the key to reducing crime and instilling confidence and trust within the community."

Here we show you a selection of results from the week-long operation.

RESULTS
The Joint Response Team (police and council enforcement officers)

- 33 stop and searches
- 11 arrests for a range of offences including handling stolen goods and driving under the influence of drugs
- Enquiries made regarding five wanted people
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) conducted with two vehicles seized for no insurance, nine court warrants executed and £3,670 in unpaid fines seized

RESULTS
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams

- 38 fixed penalty notices issued
- 141 stop and searches
- Seven arrests for a range of offences including prostitution and counterfeit cigarette sales
- One Anti-Social Behaviour Contract issued to a kerb crawler

RESULTS
Street Scene Enforcement/ DVLA/Met Police joint operation

- 27 vehicles removed to the car pound for being untaxed
- Scooter removed for no tax after the driver was detained by police and reported for no insurance and other offences

RESULTS
Council street scene enforcement officers

- Nine verbal warnings for a range of issues including illegal advertising on the highway and domestic waste
- Five fly tips examined for evidence

RESULTS
Parks Constabulary

- Patrols along Woodgrange Road and within Forest Lane Park
- Seven fly tips reported
- One arrest made after a man was found hiding in the bushes within the park after closing
- Street drinkers removed from Woodgrange Road

RESULTS
Community Liaison Team

- Raised awareness of the operation among the community and distributed almost 600 leaflets
- Letters delivered reminding residents of the current refuse collection regime
- A Street Impact Survey was completed

RESULTS
Underage sales

- Two premises visited. One sold alcohol illegally to a 16 year-old girl, while the other refused to serve a 15

RESULTS
CCTV

- Eight incidents recorded on CCTV, including fly tipping and street drinking

RESULTS
Private housing

- A house on Romford Road was visited and action has been instigated to alleviate health and safety hazards within 12 flats and communal areas. Allegations of harassment and illegal eviction are being investigated

GET ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Newham's nine Community Forums are calling for volunteers for their new active community teams.

If you live or work in the forum area, belong to a local not-for-profit organisation or faith group, or have an affinity with the community, you can volunteer.

The role of the active community teams, led by the community lead councillors, will be to organise fun events and activities that help to address the priorities identified in the forum area.

Executive adviser for community forums Councillor Richard Crawford, said: "Active community teams will not be talking shops, but designed to bring people together who have a keen interest in their Community Forum and want to make it better for everyone."

Team members will contribute their ideas through workshops on different topics like health, community safety, sport, environment and culture.

Active community team members will also be responsible for encouraging their family, friends and neighbours to get actively involved in the many aspects of their community.

Volunteer forms for the active community teams are being delivered with this issue of The Newham Mag and are also available at www.newham.gov.uk/communityforums and from Newham's libraries and local service centres.

Go on, get amongst the action!

- **Check out the advert on the inside back cover of the magazine**
- **Fill in the active community team volunteer form delivered with this magazine**

it's your borough play your part

NEWHAM COMMUNITY FORUMS

Go For It!

Ever wondered what you could do to improve your community but not sure where to go to get the funding? Newham Council has got £2,012 ready and waiting for you. All you have to do is tell us what you want to do and how it will improve the community and we'll help you to Go For It!

Or maybe you're thinking what COULD I do and you're not sure what options are open to you. Here are some of the activities that have been funded before:

New City PTA Saturday Morning Family Cycling Club – people of all ages and abilities can now have a go at cycling by borrowing bikes from the project in a safe and supervised environment. Go For It grants have enabled a great project to encourage people to get active.

St. John's Community Centre international dance events – by providing tasters of different styles of dancing, a Go For It grant has helped this project to bring together people from different cultural backgrounds to share their common love of and interest in dancing.

The Newham Green Gym – a Go For It grant has enabled local residents to carry out nature conservation activities at East Ham Nature Reserve, improving their own health as well as the local environment.

So why don't you Go For It too? See the advert opposite for details of how to find out more.

GO FOR IT you dream it, we fund it

Bring your good ideas to life with a Go For It grant

Newham

IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT AN ACTIVITY, PROJECT OR INTEREST, THEN WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. WHY?

We have up to £2,012 waiting to help you get your idea up and running in your local community. All you have to do is complete an application form and show us how you plan to do it.

Go For It grants have already funded in excess of 100 projects benefiting loads of local residents. No idea is too big or small, so grab a pen, start planning and make your community better with a **Go For It grant**.

We have already helped projects such as:

- Local garden projects
- Dance events
- Sports tournaments
- Activities for older people
- Activity clubs and much, much more

What could your community do with £2,012?

Don't let your ideas have boundaries, get involved and make your ideas a reality.

For more information call 020 8430 2433
or visit www.newham.gov.uk/goforit

GO FOR IT

you dream it, we fund it

MONEY MATTERS

Are you getting the right help?

The complex maze of benefits and tax credits still remains a great barrier for many people, preventing them from receiving the support that they are entitled to. This may in turn put families and individuals into unnecessary debt. There are advice and information services in Newham on benefits, tax credits and debt issues, to help you to increase your income.

BENEFITS AND DEBT ADVICE AT LOCAL SERVICE CENTRES

Since April 2003, the council has worked with the local Citizens Advice Bureau to run a very effective benefits advice service from Local Service Centres. Such was its success that in 2006 the service expanded to provide debt advice as well.

The CAB also offers a benefits and debt advice home visiting service to disabled people under 60 while Age Concern provides home visits for people over 60.

Newham residents have so far claimed more than £6million in benefits as a result of this project!

To book an appointment.....

→ Visit any Local Service Centre or phone 020 8430 2000

→ For a home visit phone 020 8536 1620 (if you're under 60) or 020 8503 4800 (if you're over 60)

If you have any difficulty paying your Council Tax, please contact the council on 020 8430 2000 as quickly as possible. **Do not leave the matter until court action has been taken, as this will result in you paying additional costs**. It is possible that an alternative payment arrangement can be agreed with you, and formal recovery action can often be avoided. Our staff are here to help you wherever possible.

REAL LIFE

"I cannot believe how my income has changed. I never would have known to apply for all these benefits."

Mr B, who has a wife and child, came to the Local Service Centre as he had not received his Income Support even though he received a letter saying he was entitled. The adviser helped Mr B with sorting out his Income Support payment immediately, as well as applying for help with his mortgage costs and Child Tax Credit for his daughter. When Mr B told them he suffers from Crohn's disease, which affects his ability to care for himself, the adviser helped him claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as well.

Mr B and his family are now better off by approximately £7,000 a year and he is waiting to hear the outcome of his claim for DLA and help with his mortgage interest, which if successful, will assist him further.

Mr B is now able to support his family and has considerably more income.

STRESSED OUT BY DEBT?

Patients registered at 35 Newham surgeries can get advice on benefits and debt issues from Community Links advisers as part of the GP Advice Project.

As a result of this service, Newham residents on low incomes are now better off by more than £2.8 million in benefits and tax credits, as well as having their debt problems sorted.

REAL LIFE

Ms S, a single parent with two young children, was referred by the practice manager at her surgery for debt advice. She was depressed, confused and frightened as she owed a total of more than £6,000 to six different creditors and was constantly getting calls and letters from them. She could not afford to pay these debts and was facing financial difficulties as she was on benefits. The adviser, having checked that Ms S was claiming all her benefit entitlements, negotiated with each of the creditors, who eventually agreed to stop charging interest and accepted new payment arrangements from Ms S.

To book an appointment.....

Please speak to your GP practice to see if this service is available to you.

NEWCRED

Anyone working or living in Newham can take advantage of NewCred, the community credit union that Newham Council helped set up. NewCred offers financial services that can help, especially people on low incomes, with money management.

NewCred's membership was an astonishing 6,063 in September last year.

To open an account with NewCred...

Visit their offices at

- 1 Water Lane, Stratford E15 4LU (Telephone 020 8555 5388)
- 39 Freemason's Road, Custom House, E16 3PJ (Telephone 020 7055 1877)
- Or visit their website at www.newcred.co.uk

REAL LIFE

A worried Mr Y came to NewCred as a lack of ID had prevented him from opening a current account with traditional banks. He'd just got a job after being on benefits for more than five years and needed an account to get his salary paid into. Because NewCred permits a wide range of identification options, he was able to become a member and get access to other financial services as well.

While on benefits he had taken out loans charging high interest rates and was finding it difficult to keep up with repayments. He paid them off with an affordable loan from NewCred and is now finding it easier to manage his finances and save.

WIN PARIS TICKETS

The Newham Mag and Eurostar are offering 40 tickets to Paris to deserving Newham residents so they can experience the new high-speed service which starts this month.

We have 20 pairs of tickets to give away for a special charter service on Saturday 17 November.

The Eurostar will leave St Pancras International Station at 11.17am, arriving at Paris's Gare du Nord at 11.17am local time. If you're lucky enough to go, you'll be making history as it will be one of the first ever services on the new high speed line.

Once you get to Paris you'll be free to do whatever you want for the day, catching the train back to London at 8.13pm. It will arrive at 9.41pm local time. The tickets are non-flexible and you must make your own way to and from St Pancras.

So do you know someone who deserves a free trip to Paris or do you think you think you deserve a pair of tickets yourself? Perhaps you'd like to go with the person you nominate or you'd like to nominate two people to go together? If so, call our special hotline on Friday, 9 November 2007 between 10am and 5pm.

We will choose 20 lucky winners who will each receive two tickets to Paris. You must have a valid passport to travel and we strongly advise you take out travel insurance. All tickets are non-transferable and the people travelling cannot be changed at the last minute. If you miss your train from London or Paris, you will not be able to travel on a later departure.

The new high speed service from St Pancras International to Paris Gare du Nord

The journey from London to France through the Channel Tunnel will now be two hours and 15 minutes (more than 20 minutes faster than the currect route between Waterloo and Paris).

It's all thanks to High Speed 1, the new line that connects Britain to Europe's fast-expanding high speed rail network and that will enable seamless, city centre-to-city centre journeys that are already familiar to millions of continental Europeans.

High Speed 1 has been built on time and within budget and is the link bringing Paris and London – two of the world's leading cities – even closer together. The excellent connections between domestic and Eurostar services at the newly refurbished St Pancras International will also enable travellers from towns and cities across Britain to reach mainland Europe quickly and easily.

The UK's first high-speed line runs for 68 miles (109km) from the Channel Tunnel near Folkestone to St Pancras International in central London. It passes through Ashford International and Eurostar's new station at

Ebbsfleet International in Kent, before crossing under the River Thames and approaching the capital in tunnels under Stratford. Eurostar trains will travel at a speed of 186 mph (300kph) – 50 per cent faster than even Britain's fastest domestic rail services.

Travelling by Eurostar will enable passengers to 'tread lightly' on the environment – also the name of Eurostar's plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 25 per cent per passenger journey by 2012. From 14 November, Eurostar will offset CO_2 emissions that it cannot eliminate at its own expense, making it the first train company in the world to offer carbon neutral journeys to all its customers. Independent research has shown that going by Eurostar generates ten times less CO_2 than flying, demonstrating that the train is far greener than the plane.

HOW TO ENTER

To nominate yourself or someone else to win two tickets, ring 020 8430 2000, extension 23875, on Friday 9 November only between 10am and 5pm

Places you might like to visit in the French capital:

Celebrate Diwali!

Diwali is the biggest festival in the Hindu calendar. It's a time when families get together to share special food and celebrate light, happiness and new beginnings. It's also a time to cleanse sins and welcome the gods and goddesses of wealth and power. Diwali is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains.

The Hindu calendar is based on the lunar cycle and Diwali falls on the date of the new moon between the Hindu months of Asvina and Kartika, usually in October. This year, Diwali is on 9 November.

Each Hindu month is split into 15-day cycles, Diwali is celebrated over a number of days and the celebrations begin on the tenth day of the second half of the month by doing pooja, or offering prayers.

On the eleventh day (Ekadashi) people fast and offer prayers to the popular Hindu gods: Vishnu, the preserver of human life and happiness, Krishna, the heroic deity, and Vagh Baras, the goddess of power. Durga Maa, the fierce protector against evil, is also worshipped and then the five days of celebrations begin on the 12th day (Vasubaras).

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Diwali comes from the word Deepavali meaning 'rows of lights'. During Diwali, small earthenware lights are lit in every home. The lighting of lamps is said to welcome Lakshmi Pooja, the goddess of fortune and wealth.

In preparation for Diwali, houses and shops are cleaned and doorsteps are decorated with coloured designs. New clothes are bought for this special occasion. Businesses open new account books and settle old debts. Prayers are offered for wealth and a prosperous New Year. It's a time to clear the mind of evil and forgive and forget.

Families share vegetarian feasts and watch huge firework displays together. They eat special sweets called Burfi and send Diwali greetings cards.

Don't forget to always be safe and considerate when lighting fireworks.

DOMINE DIRIGE NOS
CITY OF LONDON

The City of London Cemetery & Crematorium is proud to announce that we have been awarded

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for the seventh consecutive year

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for the second consecutive year

CEMETERY OF THE YEAR
special award for
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Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cemetery

Urban Development presents

STRATFORD CIRCUS, E15

Friday 23rd November 7.30pm
LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL:
LADIES UNPLUGGED
Hil St. Soul, Tawiah, Vula
Rosie Wilson & Gemma Fox
£12 / £8 conc.

Saturday 15th December 7.30pm
OMAR with full band
+ Lee Henry
& Randloph Matthews
£15 / £10 conc.

mention the Newham Mag when booking by phone to receive concession rate

www.urbandevelopment.co.uk

Stratford Circus

Tickets: 020 8279 1015 / www.ticketweb.co.uk
Stratford Circus, Theatre Square, London E15 1BX
Transport: Stratford
(Central / Jubilee / DLR / North London lines)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Community Links is looking for volunteers to work in our Advice Team. We are looking for:

Administrative Support Worker
&
Benefits Support Workers

We provide training and development opportunities & a friendly work environment.
Travel and lunch expenses paid

Please contact Sarah Norwood for an application pack:
020 7473 9648 / sarah.norwood@community-links.org

community links 30 years

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London Borough of Newham

thegreenpage

A cleaner, greener Newham

BIG GREEN BUS IS LET LOOSE ON THE STREETS OF NEWHAM

The message of **reduce, reuse and recycle** is being spread across Newham by the council's new green bus.

Councillor Pat Sheekey unveiled the new addition to the recycling outreach programme to school children, teachers and passers-by in Stratford this month.

Children from Rokeby School were among the first to go inside and learn more about orange bags, composting and recycling.

The bus will travel the borough providing residents with information about all the recycling services that Newham has to offer. It will be visiting community and Sure Start centres as well as being present at council events.

More than 60 per cent of rubbish that is thrown away could be recycled. The Big Green Bus will be used to educate people about how to recycle more as well as how to reduce waste and reuse as much as possible. The bus itself is a good example of reusing; it is a former mobile library!

Orange bags and rubbish: done in one

Although your rubbish and orange recycling bags are now collected together, that doesn't mean they all end up in the same place. Both bags are taken to a new multi-million pound facility in Jenkins Lane where the rubbish is treated and the recycling in the orange bags is separated. Here we are able to cut the amount of waste sent to landfill by 80 per cent.

Orange recycling bags are delivered direct to your door every three months for the collection of cans and tins, paper, light card and plastic bottles. After you have filled your orange bag, simply tie it securely and place it in your bin with your ordinary rubbish. Both bags will be collected in the same vehicle.

Visits to Jenkins Lane will be available in 2008. Look out for further information in the Newham Mag.

Say bye-bye to bulky waste – for free

It is easier than ever to get rid of bulky items such as out-of-order fridges or old furniture. Up to six household items can be collected at any one time, free of charge, within two working days, and soon items will be collected the next day. **All you need to do to arrange a pick-up is call 020 8430 2000.**

recycle for Newham

Do one thing at Newham City Farm

During the BBC Springwatch event held in Newham this summer, we were all encouraged to make a pledge to "do one thing" to make a difference to the local community.

If you are keen to get active but haven't signed up for anything yet, how about volunteering at Newham City Farm?

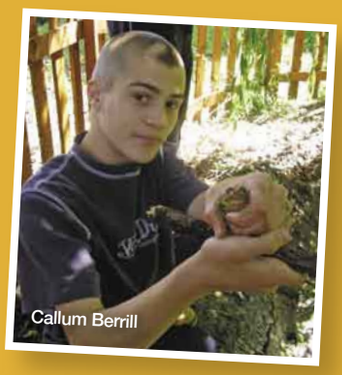
The council-run farm has a dedicated team of staff who handle the day-to-day duties of looking after the animals, tending to the land and facilitating visits by schools and other groups. But they appreciate the help that volunteers can provide and recognise the fresh ideas and input they can make.

Maureen Bird

There are a variety of ways in which you could volunteer your time. Maybe you want to help out with the animal care, or maybe you have some horticultural skill which you could lend to the farm. Or do you have experience working with children which you could use to help out with school and holiday sessions? Maybe you're a computer whizz who is dying to produce an all-singing, all-dancing newsletter each month. Or are you a proven artist who could produce beautiful murals?

You can get involved with these things through volunteering or by joining the Friends of Newham City Farm group.

Volunteering does involve commitment and even for one-off projects the farm needs completed forms and references. But if you feel you have something to give and want to benefit from all the good things that come from volunteering at the farm, then please take the time to complete the registration process.


Callum Berrill

Your "one thing" could be the beginning of a beautiful volunteering experience!

If you are interested, call the number below.

Newham City Farm
Stansfeld Road
Beckton
E6 5LT
Telephone: 020 7474 4960

Winter opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. It is closed on Mondays, apart from bank holidays.

We do lots of different things for

For information about ALL council services, call

Activities and events

The council wants to create a borough where people feel they can try new things and enrich their lives through activities and events – and by making the most of council services.

Newham has a brilliant array of activities and this year two of our bigger council events – The Mayor's Newham Show and Under the Stars – were yet again a huge success with record attendances.

Visitors to the show were asked what they thought of it and why they attended. More than 80 per cent rated it excellent or good. You also told us that the show provided a great opportunity to meet and mix and with other people and strengthen the community spirit. Many of you also said you went to the show to learn how to be more active and healthy and get involved in new activities.

All of these reasons are exactly why we stage events – to encourage, motivate and excite everyone into doing something to improve their lives.

Satisfaction with Newham was also really high and the most liked features of our borough according to those who completed the survey were our cultural diversity, followed closely by our services and facilities. We want to ensure council services are of a high standard, so getting good feedback is really encouraging.

Our Go for It grants are another way that we help you create opportunities for yourself. The money enables people to set up a new club, activity or even do something different with friends and neighbours. Over the next two years, we will give out £1m so that you can help make your neighbourhood a better place to live.

lots of different people like you...

020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk

Young People

This has been a really exciting year for the young people of Newham and it's about to get even more exciting over the coming year. A couple of weeks ago, the young people of Newham elected 16-year-old Zuhayb Ahmed as their first ever Young Mayor. Hamid Sheik has been appointed the Deputy Young Mayor and the remaining 14 candidates will now go on to form the Newham Youth Council. Having a Young Mayor will bring so much to the young people of Newham who will have someone their own age representing their thoughts, concerns and ideas.

Very soon we will also be launching a range of vocational diplomas to provide all of our young people with the skills to get a job. Our GCSE pass rate has risen every year for the last six years.

A Safer Newham

Creating a safer Newham is one of the most important priorities for Sir Robin Wales and the council as a whole. By working in tandem with Newham Police, the council has been able to close a number of crack houses and create no-go zones for groups of troublemakers.

Our recent Operation Street Prides in partnership with the police have had excellent results, most recently in the Woodgrange Road area, where crime was halved in a week.

Newham

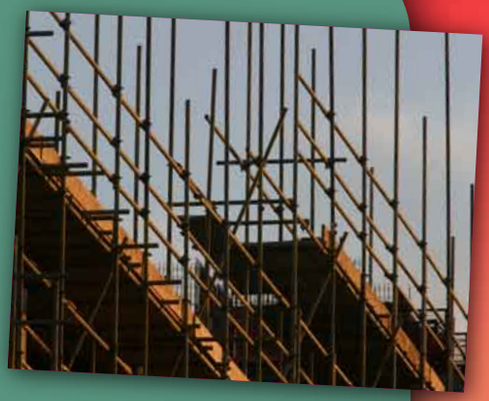
We do lots of different things for

For information about ALL council services, call

Regeneration

Did you know that the Olympic regeneration project is only the fourth largest project in Newham? We are already creating opportunities to improve our lives through council-enabled initiatives at Stratford City, the Royal Docks and Canning Town, which are even bigger than the Olympic regeneration project, and were in the pipeline long before we won the bid. The projects are set to make a big difference to the lives of thousands of people in Newham for many generations to come as thousands of jobs and housing opportunities will be created. Stratford City is the largest and most ambitious development project in Newham and the UK. The transformation will create homes for approximately 11,000 people and jobs for more than 30,000 people.

Housing



We know that housing has to be at the top of our agenda as a council and that there has to be more affordable housing available for our residents. We also need to provide more opportunities for our younger residents to get onto the housing ladder and our proposed equity share scheme will make this a reality. Within the current limits of the law we believe that the people who have waited the longest should get the housing first and social housing allocation be based on how long you have been on the waiting list. We are also going to create our own development vehicle so that the council can build the housing that people need and want – and not just the housing that developers build.

lots of different people like you...

020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk

Employment opportunities

Last month Grace Okorie from Forest Gate became the 100th person in only four months to get a job through Workplace – a new council scheme that works for you. Workplace tackles all the barriers that might stop people from looking for or getting a job, and gives people the skills and confidence to get into work by providing training, courses and general careers advice - all of which is free. It also works really closely with employers, which means businesses are able to be specific about what skills are needed and Workplace can then find and train people to meet these needs. With the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games just around the corner, it's important that local people fill the local jobs that will be created and if we can provide the relevant training and help, this is something we can all aspire to.

You may have read about our exciting new employment pilot on page 5.

Newham

Have your say on child poverty and neighbourhood policing

Newham Council has set up a Commission to find ways to end child poverty in the borough.

The chair of the Commission, Councillor Kevin Jenkins, would like you to come along to meet him and talk to him about your experiences:

- How are you affected by poverty where you live and work?
- Does poverty affect people you know?
- What can the council do to help residents, their children and families affected by poverty?

Your views will help the Commission better understand how to help residents.

By coming along, you will also be contributing to The Month of Action to End Child Poverty, which started on 17 October (World Poverty Day) and continues until 20 November (Universal Children's Day).

Please come to a drop-in session near you on Thursday 8 November 2007:

- 10am–12noon: Room 117, Beckton Globe, 1 Kingsford Way, East Ham E6 5JQ
- 2-4pm: Keir Hardie Church, 14 Plymouth Road (entrance in Fife Road), Custom House E16 1PA
- 6-8pm: Conference room, Old Town Hall, 29 The Broadway, Stratford E15 4BQ

The council has also set up a Commission to look at neighbourhood policing

Newham has had police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) in each of its 20 wards for just over a year and Newham Council has established a Scrutiny Commission to look at how the teams are working. The Commission is holding a meeting on **19 November at West Ham Football Club at 6.30pm.**

We would like to hear the views of local people. Here are some of the questions we want to ask:

- What has changed as a result of the teams?
- Have you been involved in helping to set policing priorities for your area?
- What more would you like to see the teams doing to tackle crime and fear of crime in your area?

This is your chance to have a say about how the SNTs have developed, what they are doing, and what you would like to see them doing in the future. You will also be able to find out more about how you can get involved in contributing to neighbourhood policing priorities in your area.

If you are interested in attending either meeting to give us your views, please email scrutinyteam@newham.gov.uk, telephone 020 8430 6293 or write to Overview and Scrutiny Unit, London Borough of Newham, Room 35, Old Technical College, East Ham, E6 2RP.

Newham

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LIVE LIFE

Newham

GREEN STREET COMMUNITY FORUM

it's your borough play your part

WIN AN MP3 PLAYER

Saturday 17 November

12noon – 5pm

West Ham United Football Club, Boleyn Ground, Green Street E13 9AZ

Put your health in the hot seat and get tips about crime prevention at the Green Street health and community safety event.

Find out about a range of health issues, have a free Indian head massage and health check-up and learn how to keep fit.

Take part in workshops on personal safety and home security.

For young people there'll be fun activities including T-shirt painting, badge making, sports taster sessions and face painting.

Plus go on a tour of West Ham United Football Club!

FREE HEALTHY FOOD

VOUCHER

BRING THIS ADVERT AND GET A FREE MASSAGE OR PERSONAL SAFETY ALARM!

Massages must be booked at the event. The number of personal safety alarms is limited. Come early to avoid disappointment.

A DECADE ON, NOT FORGOTTEN

Flowers were laid in Stratford last Wednesday to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of police constable Nina Mackay.

PC Mackay, 25, formed part of a specialist team which was attempting to arrest a wanted man at a flat in Arthingworth Street on October 24 1997. The man stabbed her to death as she entered the premises.

Borough Commander Det Chief Supt Nick Bracken and Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales placed tributes at the memorial erected at the housing association block where she was stabbed. They were joined by other officers for a minute's silence and salute.

Mr Bracken said: "Nina's tragic loss demonstrates the unquestioned bravery and devotion which unarmed officers display every day in striving to uphold the law and protect the people of Newham and elsewhere. Her dedication in the line of duty will not be forgotten.

"This is an occasion to remember Nina and the great courage that she showed. I am sure her family, friends and colleagues look back on her life with pride."

Sir Robin said: "We should all make time to remember the courage and commitment of our police officers. They risk their lives on a daily basis to protect us. Tragically, some pay the ultimate price to ensure our safety.

"Being here to pay tribute is a stark reminder of how dangerous their job can be and we applaud the dedication and professionalism of all officers in guarding our freedom and maintaining law and order."

A road close to the stabbing scene has been named Nina Mackay Close in her memory. PC Mackay is also remembered at the Metropolitan Police memorial garden in Hendon by a Valiant Heart rose. Valiant Heart was one of the hymns played at Nina's funeral.

The man who stabbed Nina denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He was ordered to be kept at Rampton top security mental hospital under the Mental Health Act with no time limit.

Mayor Sir Robin and borough commander Nick Bracken at PC Mackay's memorial

NEWHAM »IN FOCUS

Craft fair comes to Canning Town

A visiting craft fair is coming to Rathbone Street Market on 17 November from 10am to 4pm.

In addition to the regular traders at the market in Barking Road, **CANNING TOWN**, there will be a beautiful selection of crafted leather goods, greetings cards, ornaments and more. For further information call 020 8430 3705.

HOSPITAL RATED GOOD IN ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK

Newham University Hospital NHS Trust can announce that in the 2007 Annual Health Check it received a rating of good for quality of services and a rating of weak for use of resources.

The Trust was among 55.6 per cent of trusts nationally who were rated good or better for quality of services. The Trust was one of 32 per cent of trusts nationally to receive a rating of 'weak' for use of resources. The ratings are based on performance in relation to the core standards within *Standards for Better Health*, existing and new national targets, and use of resources.

Roma dancing in Stratford

Performances of traditional Roma music and dance as well as modern and contemporary acts are taking place at ***STRATFORD*** *Circus on 17 November. The event is from 4.30-8pm and tickets are £2.*

For further information call 020 7511 6508 or 07950 526207.

Newham signs up seven of the best

They are bright, breezy and eager to learn. They are seven new staff members who have just started a career with Newham Council, thanks to its initiative to attract the best of local and national talent to its ranks.

They have all been recruited through the new and innovative Newham Local Graduate Scheme and the nationally organised National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP). The new recruits are: Ashley Elliot, Bethany Reid, James Beckles, Joshua Saha, Nazmin Yeahia, Rita Nganwa and Shabia Khanom.

The standard of the shortlisted applicants was so high that five have been appointed, instead of the planned four. They join two others recruited through the NGDP, which attracts thousands of national applicants.

The search for local talent began earlier this year. The council's workforce does not reflect the comparative youth of the local community. Neither is it representative of the borough's culturally diversity. The Newham Graduate Scheme is one of the ways the council is changing this.

Recruitment to it was limited to those who live or study in Newham. It attracted enormous interest and 460 completed applications.

They were welcomed to the council by Bob Heaton, executive director of resources Susan McNally, head of Human Resources and Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS (SNT) UPDATE

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS
LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

On 11 October, officers from the **EAST HAM CENTRAL** SNT spent the morning at Newham College in East Ham, where they conducted a questions and answer session with students. The discussions covered a range of topics about policing in Newham, giving the students an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns.

The officers spoke about the dangers of carrying a knife and the consequences that this may bring, and the positive action being taken by Newham Police to arrest offenders.

MANOR PARK

On 11 and 12 October, the Manor Park SNT, working with the Little Ilford team and British Transport Police, conducted a high visibility operation at Manor Park Station.

The initiative targeted individuals involved in street crime, drug use and anti-social behaviour. A wide range of tactics were used including the latest metal-detecting technology, the use of powers granted to police under terrorism legislation as well as the support of railway revenue officials.

More than 200 searches were carried out which led to a number of arrests for various offences from possession of class A drugs to offensive weapons.

ROYAL DOCKS

A walk-to-school initiative has sparked a clean-up across Royal Docks. Last year, Drew Primary School piloted an initiative in which a group of children were escorted around the streets in the vicinity of their school to point out to police and local authority what concerns and worries they had and what caused fear in them.

On these routes, issues such as dumped rubbish and graffiti were indicated as a safety issue. The Royal Docks SNT is now repeating this process with Drew Primary and Britannia Village Primary Schools.

The Police team will adopt a more sustained approach with consultation with parents as to what fears and concerns they have about routes to school. It is also intended to perform short personal safety talks with the children in both schools.

Birkbeck Stratford welcomes first students

Birkbeck UNIVERSITY OF LONDON STRATFORD

Staff from Birkbeck **STRATFORD** welcomed their first students at a special reception on 15 October. Dozens of new students and their families attended the event at Stratford Circus, meeting fellow students, course lecturers and college staff.

"It is important that we build a strong student community for those learning at Birkbeck Stratford, to support each other in their studies. Events like this are the perfect way to bring people together," said Professor Philip Dewe, Vice-Master of Birkbeck.

More than 120 students have enrolled for first term courses at Birkbeck Stratford, which is offering part-time evening university qualifications for those who live and work in East London.

For more information about Birkbeck Stratford visit: www.birkbeckstratford.ac.uk

Birkbeck Stratford launches new theatre partnership for East London

Birkbeck **STRATFORD** and Theatre Royal Stratford East celebrated the launch of their new partnership on 23 October, with a gala performance of Jean Genet's The Blacks. The new partnership will give people in East London the opportunity to develop their potential through access to education and contemporary theatre.

" We have been approached by many organisations looking to partner us, particularly since the Olympic redevelopment started in Stratford, " said Kerry Michael, artistic director at the Theatre Royal. " Birkbeck is the first one we have agreed to work with. Birkbeck Stratford and the Theatre Royal share an ethos that dates back to our respective pioneers, George Birkbeck and Joan Littlewood, in bringing opportunities in education and the arts to the local community. "

Birkbeck is currently in discussion with Theatre Royal Stratford East about a number of collaborations, including an MA for Creative Theatre Producers and involvement in the theatre's International Youth Arts Festival which is being launched in July 2008.

Expecting a baby? Got questions?

Newham residents who are expecting a baby can now take part in a discussion group led by midwives at Newham General Hospital to find out more about their birth options.

It will be held at Newham General Hospital in the Lecture Theatre, Academic Centre, on the first Tuesday of every month. This is based at Zone 2, on the ground floor. The group will run from 6.30–8pm, allowing expectant women and their partners who are working to also access the group. Places do not need to be booked.

Therese Chapman, consultant midwife, said: "It is important that the maternity team works in partnership with women and their families to help us understand what their needs are and help them get the most out of the care available and improve their experience of giving birth."

NEWHAM PCT SET TO SAVE MILLIONS WITH SCRIPTSWITCH

Newham NHS
Primary Care Trust

Newham Primary Care Trust is in line to make huge annual savings after signing up to a new service with prescribing software company ScriptSwitch.

The trust is setting a money-saving example to the NHS after agreeing to use the firm's technology, which assists doctors in making cost effective decisions by offering alternative medicines at cheaper prices.

The company believes it could save every PCT an average of £2.6m per year and it has already enabled the NHS to make annualised savings of more than £10m.

Managing director Mike Washburn, said: "We are delighted to have signed an agreement with Newham PCT to install our software."

PLAISTOW FEELS THE FOOTBALL PULSE

Two months down the track and the buzz is still alive for the winners of the young people's Community Forum football competitions.

The finals in all three age groups were won by teams from the **PLAISTOW** forum area and as a result more youngsters have taken to the pitch.

Newham All Stars player Joshua Thomas, 14, said: "Winning has made me more confident. We've told our friends and about 25 new kids have come to train with us. It's good to know people want to take part in sport and keep off the streets and out of trouble."

Community Lead Councillor for Plaistow Zulfiqar Ali said: "I'm pleased we've got more young people involved but we want to go even further and hopefully impact on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. It's also an opportunity to identify talented young people now to be potential candidates for the Olympics."

Manager of Newham All Stars Lester Thomas with players Sadik Kamara, Joshua Thomas, Lewis Warren and community lead councillor for Plaistow Zulfiqar Ali.

NEWHAM AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To commemorate the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, the Newham Domestic Violence Forum (DVF) will be hosting a Community Networking Event on 19 November at Durning Hall, Earlham Grove, **FOREST GATE** E7 9AB.

All community groups are welcome. It will be from 12noon-2pm, and you need to register to take part in this networking lunch.

The DVF will also have an information stall in Stratford Mall on Friday 23 November from 11am to 3pm, where white ribbons and wristbands will be available.

The significance of 25 November goes back to 1960, when the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated for their political activism; 25 November was the date chosen to commemorate their lives and promote global recognition of gender violence.

Please contact the council's Domestic Violence Team on 020 8430 3153 for more information.

NORTH BECKTON PRIMARY IS OUTSTANDING!

Government inspectors have praised **NORTH BECKTON** Primary School and given it an outstanding report.

They visited the school in Harrier Way and were so impressed that they gave it a Grade 1 (outstanding) in all categories. They described pupils as being "valued" and commented that "they make excellent progress and work and play together in harmony".

The staff were found to "form a close and committed team and ensure that the school provides a haven of stability and security for its pupils". The inspectors put this down to the head teacher's "exemplary leadership and management".

Head teacher Manjit Rai, said: "I am very proud that the work of my staff and pupils has been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted. We always knew that we were one of the best schools in the country and I am delighted that this has been confirmed."

Siblings Mustafa, 6 and Hadia, 11 Abid enjoy their first session of yoga.

MANOR PARK health event hits the mark

Health checks, massages and fresh fruit juices were in plentiful supply at the **MANOR PARK** Community Forum health event in October.

More than 150 people attended the free event and got information about a range of health topics, from chronic illnesses and complimentary therapies to keeping fit.

Newham Council's HealthWorks team launched its Smoke Free Homes campaign, which aims to encourage smokers to smoke outside their home to reduce the exposure of non-smokers, particularly children, to second hand smoke. Councillor Andrew Baikie was the first person to sign a pledge to quit smoking in his home.

He said: "I encourage other smokers to make the pledge, not only for themselves but for the sake of the people they live with because second hand smoke is a killer."

Rubina Abid attended the event with her two children.

She said: "It was excellent. My children enjoyed yoga and I had a very relaxed feeling after my massage. I had a health check and my weight is a little high so I'm going to start exercising in the mornings."

Councillor Andrew Baikie makes his pledge to stop smoking at home with support from Newham Council's HealthWorks staff Angela Gipson, Rita Nganwa and Karen Minhas.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN NBA ACADEMY

On 8 October, the council took 30 young people to the O2 Arena for a training session with National Basketball Association teams Boston Celtics and Minnesota Timberwolves.

The youngsters were picked by Paul McKenzie (Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme), Caroline Charles (Youngbloods Basketball Team) and Natasha Hart (Newham All Star Sports Academy).

Dominic Norton, 13, who has been selected to play for England under-15s basketball, was one of them.

They participated in basic drills such as, shooting, dribbling and rebound with NBA players taking part, including the legendary Benjamin Roy Armstrong from Chicago Bulls.

Newham General shortlisted for Involvement to Impact Award

A project to improve older people's services at Newham University Hospital NHS Trust has been shortlisted for a prestigious Patient and Public Involvement Award.

The project, developed by professional development nurses Michelle McLelland and Dawn Kavanagh with staff involved in caring for older patients, has been nominated for excellence in involving older people in developing services, in the category of Involvement of Seldom Heard Groups.

The project has worked with older people in the hospital and the community from the outset, to improve the patient experience across a range of areas including communication, involvement in care and planning of care and privacy and dignity.

Family Learning Week

What better way to help your children fulfil their potential than by providing practical support for their education and development? But the real issue for parents, who can feel out of touch with what goes on in schools, is what form this support should take.

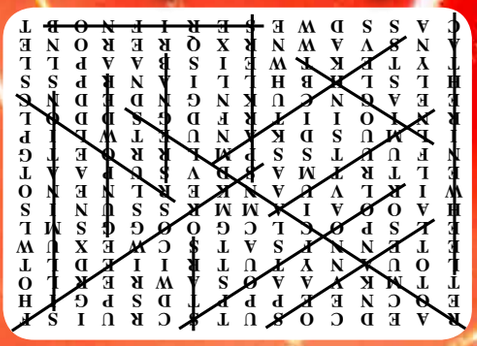
Enter Family Learning Week (6-14 October), where parents and children were able to learn together, thanks to the coaching the parents received from tutors employed by the Family Learning Project, part of Newham's Learning Community Services.

"Family learning is practical, fun and effective," says Bopinder Samra, Newham's family learning co-ordinator. To get this message across, she organised two-hour sessions in schools across the borough, focusing on activities that would appeal to children and parents alike.

To find out more about family learning courses, which are held in primary schools across the borough in school hours, in the evening and on Saturdays, ring Bopinder on 020 8430 2666 or Newham Children's Information Service (CIS) on 0800 074 1017.

Kids' corner

Wordsearch answer



Gallery

Juwayriyah, 12

Diana Meen, 9

Tanisha Solanki

Fatiha Uddin, 10

PLEASE SEND YOUR DRAWINGS, JOKES AND POEMS TO:
KIDS' CORNER, NEWHAM TOWN HALL, EAST HAM E6 2RP

Poem

School Week by Ahad Aman Sheikh, 12

Sunday's somewhat meloncholy,
Monday's slighly sad.
Tuesday's quite disheartening,
Wednesday's just as bad.
Thursday's filled with gloominess,
Friday's rather glum.
I wish it didn't take a week,
For Saturday to come.

Wordsearch

R	A	E	D	C	O	S	U	T	S	C	R	U	I	S	F
E	O	C	N	E	E	P	P	P	T	D	S	P	G	I	H
T	T	M	K	V	A	A	O	S	A	W	R	E	R	L	O
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A	N	S	V	A	W	N	R	X	Q	R	E	R	O	N	E
C	A	S	S	D	W	E	S	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	T

Autumn
Bangers
Bonfires
Catherine Wheel
Colour
Fireworks
Gunpowder
Illumination
Leaves
Light
Matches
Roman Candles
Rooftops
Sparklers
Stars

Hospital staff are *stars*

In October, patients at Newham General Hospital were given the opportunity to recognise excellent customer care by rewarding staff with stars.

This is the third year that the Patients First team have put together a programme for Newham University Hospital NHS Trust to celebrate Customer Service Week, giving patients an opportunity to get involved and to recognise the improved performance of staff.

Robert Barltrop, who gave his star to one of the healthcare assistants in Health Central, said: "Devika is always here when I come for my appointments and she is always helpful and nice to me."

Devika Rajcoomar

Devika Rajcoomar, who has worked in the eye clinic at Newham General for three years, said: "I am so happy to have received the star and to know that my services have been appreciated."

Patricia Thomas gave her star to Maureen Gilmartin, a senior nurse working in Health Central. She said: "It is always a pleasure coming to the hospital. This has been my local hospital for many years, I gave birth to my son here 18 years ago and every time I come, I see the service getting better and better. I really like the way they measure their service with the stars and the comment cards. I gave my star to Maureen Gilmartin because she is an outstanding nurse and an asset to the NHS. She is always so pleasant and caring."

Maureen was delighted: "It felt wonderful to receive a star. It is so nice to be appreciated."

Since the Patients First project launched in 2005 the Trust has made real improvements to services by using feedback from patients to drive forward change. Staff attitude was one of the key areas highlighted as a concern in 2006. In response to this, a range of initiatives were introduced including customer care training.

Now feedback from patients shows a real turnaround and staff attitude and customer care is rated highly with comments such as: "Thank you for your hospitality. You are friendly staff, evidently committed to the wellbeing and welfare of your patients," and "All the lovely nurses have been so kind and caring to me and all the other patients. They have helped me through a really bad patch in my life and I thank them all".

Maureen Gilmartin

Cathy Geddes, director of nursing and patient care, said: "Listening to patient feedback is key to improving the patient experience. Customer Service Week is an opportunity for the Trust to raise awareness about the importance of customer care and to get patients involved in showing staff that their hard work is appreciated."

WHAT'S ON?

3 – 17 NOVEMBER

LIBRARIES

LIBRARY ADDRESSES

Beckton Globe 1 Kingsford Way, E6 5JQ. 020 8430 4063
Canning Town Barking Road, E16 4HQ. 020 7476 2696
Custom House Prince Regent Lane, E16 3JJ. 020 7476 1565
East Ham High Street South, E6 6EL. 020 8430 3647
The Gate 4-20 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate E7 0QH. 020 8430 3838
Green Street 337-341 Green Street, E13 9AR. 020 8472 4101
Manor Park Romford Road, E12 5JY. 020 8430 2207
North Woolwich 5 Pier Parade, E16 2LJ. 020 8430 5900
Plaistow North Street, E13 9HL. 020 8472 0420
Stratford 3 The Grove, E15 1EL. 020 8430 6890
Archives and Local Studies: 020 8430 6881

UNDER 5s GROUPS

Storytelling – Stories, rhymes and crafts for children under five with their parents and carers.
Beckton Globe Every Friday 10-11am
Canning Town Every Monday 10.30-11.30am
Custom House Every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am
East Ham Every Wednesday 2-3pm
The Gate Every Friday 11am-12noon
Green Street Every Thursday 10.30-11.30am
Manor Park Every Thursday 10.30-11.30am
North Woolwich Every Friday 11am-12noon
Plaistow Every Tuesday 11am-12noon
Stratford Every Tuesday 11am-12noon and every Friday 2-3pm
Little Readers – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Every Wednesday 1.30-2.30pm
Crafts Club – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Manor Park Every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am
Stratford Every Monday 10.30-11.30am
Crafts & Computer Club – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Every Monday 10.30-11.30am
Toy Library – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Beckton Globe Every Monday 10am-12noon and every Thursday 1-3pm
East Ham Every Tuesday 10am-12noon and every Thursday 10am-12noon
Messy Play – Open to children under five with their parent and carers.
Beckton Every Tuesday during school term 1.30-2.30pm
Imaginative Play – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
East Ham Every Friday 10.30-11.30am

ADULT READING

Adult Reading Group – Explore the pleasure of reading in a friendly environment.
The Gate Tuesday 6 November 6.30-7.30pm
Stratford Monday 12 November 6.30-7.30pm
Over 50s Reading Group – Explore the pleasure of reading in a friendly environment.
Beckton Tuesday 6 November 9.45-11.45am
Tamil Reading Group – Discover more about the range of books available in the Tamil language.
East Ham Wednesday 14 November 11am-1pm
Women-Only Urdu Reading Group – Read novels, short stories and poetry and enjoy the delights of the Urdu language.
The Gate Tuesday 13 November 5.30-7.30pm

OTHER GROUPS

Over 50s Club – Enjoy a range of activities for the over 50s.
Beckton Every Tuesday 9.45-11.45am
Click-On – Free introduction to computers for the over 50s.
East Ham Friday 16 November 10am-12noon and 2-4pm
Plaistow Friday 9 November 10am-12noon and 2-4pm
Open Doors – Free computer training on disability access suite and software.
Canning Town Tuesday 13 November 10am-12noon
Writers Group
The Gate Tuesday 6 November 5.30-7.45pm

YOUNG PEOPLE

Homework Club – Homework support and advice for young people aged seven to 14. School term only.
Beckton Every Tuesday 4-6pm
Canning Town Every Saturday 10am-12noon
Custom House Every Saturday 10am-12noon
East Ham Every Monday 4-6pm
The Gate Every Thursday 4-6pm
Green Street Every Tuesday 4-6pm

LIVE LIFE

Manor Park Every Saturday 10am-12noon
North Woolwich Every Thursday 3.30-5.30pm
Plaistow Every Thursday 4-6pm
Stratford Every Monday 4-6pm
Children's Games Club – Board games and activities for children aged five to 12.
Canning Town Thursday 8 and 15 November 4-6pm
Games Club – PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged eight to 13.
Custom House Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm
East Ham Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm
Manor Park Every Thursday 4-6pm
Teen Games Club – PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged 12 to 16.
Beckton Every Monday and every Wednesday 3-5pm
Family Reading Group – A chance for children aged five to 11 and their families to read together and have fun.
The Gate Sunday 4 November 2.30-4pm
Teen Xtra Evenings – Free activities for young people aged 12 to 21.
The Gate Every Friday 6-8pm

ESTATE BASED SPORTS

Sessions are open to 12-18 year olds unless otherwise stated and are for all abilities. Sessions are FREE. For more information call 020 8430 2484 or visit www.newham.com/2012Games

Athletics
Every Friday
4.30-6pm, 8-19 years
Drapers Field

Basketball
Every Monday
7-9pm
The Froud Centre
Every Tuesday
5-7pm
Royal Victoria Gardens Ball Cage
Every Tuesday
7.30-9.30pm
Plaistow Park
Every Friday
5-6.45pm
Forest Gate Youth Centre

Cricket
Every Tuesday
5.30-7pm, 8-19 years
Score Indoor Complex
Every Thursday
4.30-6pm, 8-19 years
Drapers Field

Football
Every Monday
6-8pm
Plaistow Park
Every Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm
Little Ilford Ball Cage
Every Tuesday
5-7pm
Stratford Park
Every Tuesday
5-7pm
Phoenix Cage
Every Wednesday
4.30-6.30pm
Royal Victoria Gardens
Every Wednesday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
Stratford Park
Every Wednesday
7.30-9.30pm, 16+ (£2 charge)
Score Complex
Every Thursday
5-7pm
Scud Park Ball Cage
Every Thursday
6-8pm
Forest Gate Youth Centre
Every Friday
4-5.30pm (term time only)
St John's Community Centre
Every Friday 6-8pm
Priory Park Ball Cage
Every Saturday
10-11.30am, 6-12 years (£3 charge)
Drapers Field
Every Saturday
2-4pm, 6-14 years (£3 charge)
Score Complex

Estates Football and Basketball League
Every Monday
6-8pm, under 14s and under 17s
Score Complex Hard Court
Every Tuesday
5.30-7pm, under 12s and under 14s
Drapers Field
Every Friday
6-8pm, under 14s and under 17s
Leyton Manor Park

Football and Basketball
Every Monday
4.30-6.30pm
Winsor Park
Every Wednesday 5-7pm
New Beckton Park Ball Cage
Every Wednesday
4.30-6.30pm
Ford Park
Every Wednesday
6-8pm
Plashet Park
Every Thursday
4.30-6.30pm
Priory Park Ball Cage
Every Thursday
5.30-7.30pm
Barking Road Rec
Every Friday
5-7pm
Lister Gardens Park
Every Friday
5-7pm
Canning Town MUGA

Multi-Sports
Every Monday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
Langthorne Park
Every Monday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
Alma Street MUGA
Every Tuesday
4-5pm
Carpenters and Docklands Centre (term time only)
Every Tuesday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
Stratford Park
Every Wednesday
4-5pm
Carpenters and Docklands Centre (term time only)
Every Wednesday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
The CAGE (Chatsworth Active Games Enclosure)
Every Wednesday
5-7pm
Stratford Park
Every Wednesday
4-6pm, 10-19 years
Can Hall Park
Every Wednesday
5-7pm, 8-19 years
Major Road Ball Park
Every Thursday
5-7pm, 8-19 years, The CAGE

Stratford Table Tennis Club
Every Wednesday
6.30-9.30pm
Stratford Secondary School

Eastlea Handball Club
Every Thursday 4-5pm
11-18 years
Eastlea School
Every Thursday 5-6pm
4-11 years
Eastlea School

Stratford Handball Club
Every Monday 3.15-4.15pm
11-18 years
Stratford Secondary School
Mondays 4.30-5.30pm
4-11 years
Stratford Secondary School

Venue Addresses
Alma Street MUGA
Alma Street, Stratford E15
Barking Road Rec
Burges Road, East Ham E6
The CAGE (Chatsworth Active Games Enclosure)
Cruickshank Road, Stratford E15
Can Hall Park
Off Can Hall Road, E11
Canning Town MUGA
Corner of Freemasons Road and Sophia Road, E16
Carpenters and Docklands Centre
98 Gibbins Road, Stratford E15 2HU
Drapers Field
Temple Mills Lane, off Leyton High Road, E15
Eastlea School
Exning Road,
Canning Town E16 4ND
Ford Park
Canning Town, E16
Forest Gate Youth Centre
Woodgrange Road, E7 0QH
Froud Centre
Toronto Avenue,
Manor Park E12 5JF
Langthorne Park
Off Leytonstone High Road, E11
Leyton Manor Park
Off Capworth Street,
Leyton E10
Lister Gardens Park
Corner of Upper Road and Florence Road, Plaistow E13
Little Ilford Ball Cage
Reynolds Avenue,
Manor Park E12
Major Road Ball Cage
Major Road, Stratford E15
New Beckton Park Ball Cage
Savage Gardens, Beckton E6
Phoenix Cage
Milner Road, West Ham E13
Plaistow Park
Balaam Street, Plaistow E13
Plashet Park
Woodhouse Grove,
East Ham E7
Priory Park Ball Cage
William Morley Close, Upton Park E13
Royal Victoria Gardens
Pier Road,
North Woolwich E16
Score Complex
100 Oliver Road
Leyton E10 5JY
Scud Park Ball Cage
Tant Avenue,
Canning Town E16
Stratford Park
Densham Road, Stratford E15
Stratford Secondary School,
Upton Lane, Forest Gate
E7 9PR
St John's Community Centre
Albert Road,
North Woolwich E16 2JB
Winsor Park
Warwall, Beckton E6

ADULT EVENTS

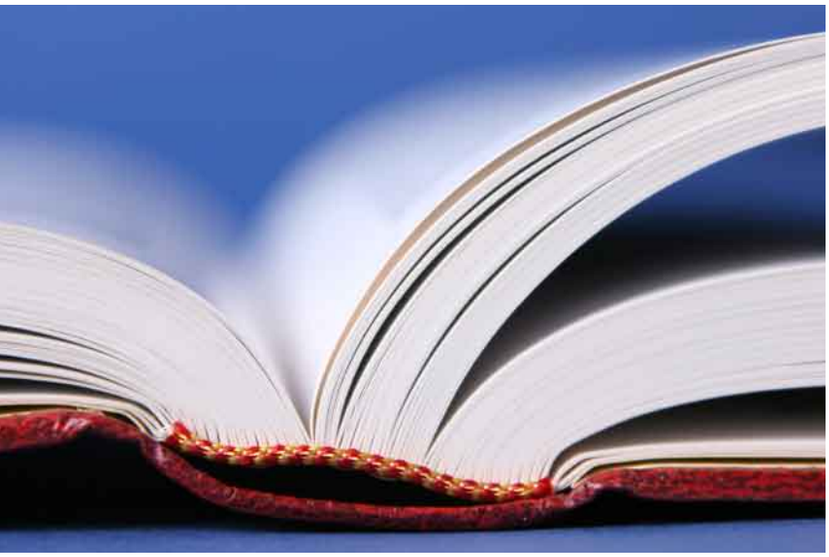
Theatre Royal Stratford East

The Blacks
Until 10 November

The Queen comes to a command performance at Theatre Royal Stratford East. But DJ Excalibah and his company of rappers, poets and comedians serve up an entertainment that is nothing like any Royal Variety Show ever seen before. Anarchic, provocative, outrageous – The Blacks is as exciting and entertaining as it is challenging.

Tickets: £18 and £12, concessions £10 and £7
Suitable for ages 15+. Some people may be sensitive to words used in the show.

LIVE LIFE



Theatre Royal,
Gerry Raffles Square,
Stratford E15 1BN
Telephone: 020 8279 1160
www.stratfordeast.com

Newham Writers' Workshop

Every Thursday, 7-9pm
Small writing group that has been meeting since 1986 is looking for new members to join. Poets, novelists, journalists and writers for all formats are welcome.
For more information please visit www.newhamwriters.org.uk
St John's Church, Broadway, Stratford E15 1NG

Adult sports activities

Belly Dancing
Every Monday, 7.30-8.30pm
Women only, £2
Vicarage Primary School,
Vicarage Lane, East Ham
E6 4AD

Circuit training
6-7pm, free
Katherine Road
Community Centre

Yoga
6-7pm, free
Katherine Road
Community Centre

Yoga
Every Wednesday
10.30-11.30am, free
Jack Cornwell
Community Centre

Yoga
Every Wednesday,
7.30-8.30pm, free
Vicarage Primary School,
Vicarage Lane, East Ham
E6 4AD

Fitness Class
Every Tuesday, 7.30-8.30pm
Women only, £2
Vicarage Primary School,
Vicarage Lane, East Ham
E6 4AD

Badminton
Every Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday 8.30-10pm
£6 per court
Vicarage Primary School,
Vicarage Lane, East Ham
E6 4AD

Community Centre Addresses

There are lots of free activities and groups in community centres. Call your local centre to find out more.

Beckton Community Centre
14 East Manor Way,
Beckton E6 5NG
020 7511 1214
Chandos Community Centre
Colegrave Road E15 1ED
020 8534 0140
Chatsworth
Community Centre
Chatsworth Road, E15 1SP
020 8555 4477
Cundy Community Centre
Hartington Road E16 3NP
020 7474 6056
Field Community Centre
147 Station Road,
Forest Gate E7 0AE
020 8536 2800
Hathaway Community Centre
Hathaway Crescent, Manor
Park E12 6LR
020 8548 4980
Hibiscus Community Centre
Buckingham Road E15 1SP
020 8519 6159
Jack Cornwell
Community Centre
Jack Cornwell Street, Manor
Park E12 5NN
020 8553 3270
Katherine Road
Community Centre
254 Katherine Road, Forest
Gate E7 8PN
020 8548 982
Plaistow Park
Community Centre
Queens Road West,
Plaistow E13 0PE
020 8552 1334

USEFUL NUMBERS

020 8430 2000
Hundreds of services, just one number – for all council enquiries

For questions about councillor surgeries or to find out which ward you live in, call 020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk/yourcouncillor

Write to Mayor Sir Robin Wales at Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, East Ham E6 2RP or email mayor@newham.gov.uk

For information about Community Forums freephone 0800 519 4015 or email community.forums@newham.gov.uk

For information about the 2012 Games and how it will affect Newham, visit www.newham.com/2012Games

To report anti-social behaviour call Newham's 24-hour hotline on 0800 731 3300

To speak to the editor of The Newham Mag, call Jen Bishop on 020 8430 2000 or email newham.mag@newham.gov.uk

LIVE LIFE

ACTIVE COMMUNITY TEAMS

it's your borough play your part

Do you want to see more fun activities and events in your local area?

Now's your opportunity to support your councillors to organise free events for everyone to enjoy.

Get involved in your local Community Forum's active community team and help make a difference to your area.

Volunteer to become an active community team member today!

Pick up a volunteer form from your local library or service centre or download from www.newham.gov.uk/communityforums

Forms must be returned by Friday 23 November.

For more information call 020 8430 6000 Monday to Friday from 8am – 8pm or email community.forums@newham.gov.uk

www.newham.gov.uk/communityfourms

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